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Chief, Economic Research, ORR

16 July 1959

Chief, Geographic Research, ORR

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Concern About a Developing Backlog of Work in D/GC that
Could Result in Delays in Future NIS Sections

REFERENCE: Memo to Ch/E, from Chief, D/M, dated 16 June 1959, subject: Delay in
Submission of NIS Sections to OBI

1. Although the Cartography Division makes every effort to meet requestors' deadlines for maps to accompany NIS Sections to OBI, they sometimes fall short because of a number of reasons.

2. Even though the NIS enjoys a very high priority, there are other requestors carrying even more weight who can divert the efforts away from an NIS map. This happens constantly and thus forces us into a heavy use of overtime in order to meet scheduled commitments.

3. May and June are peak months in receipt of requests from all over the Agency. Every office is trying to complete fiscal year programs. For example, between 1 April and 1 June 1959, the Cartography Division took on 122 more projects than it was able to complete. (Total on hand: 1 April - 448; 1 May - 536; 1 June - 570.) The carryover from month to month occurred in spite of the fact that the Division produced more items per month than during any comparable period within the past 12 years. We do not have the capability sufficient to meet the full requirements of the fiscal-year-end push.

4. The intelligence officers in D/GC are well aware of the importance of timeliness in the intelligence product and the need to get the job out promptly. They are also competent individuals who are acutely aware of the need for accuracy, completeness and currency of the information they are compiling into cartographic form. In the case of 61(M), NIS on China, they were asked, in effect, to reproduce a large number of maps which had appeared in a previous NIS and to add several new maps from other sources. When this request came in, the compilation branch assumed that the materials submitted were up-to-date and complete. When the compiler assigned to the job got to it, he soon found that there were better and more up-to-date materials available. The requesting office was so informed and agreed to the use of the newer materials and, in effect, left it up to the compiler to do the job. It was understood by D/GC/F that more time would be required. The maps produced for this NIS section as a result of the efforts of D/GC/F are a considerable improvement in content, accuracy and pertinence.

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Concern About a Developing Backlog of Work in
D/GC that Could Result in Delays in Future NIS Sections

5. The Cartography Division will continue to make the utmost effort to aid in the meeting of deadlines to avoid embarrassment over delays in meeting D/M's commitments to NIS. It must be remembered, however, that other projects -- many of which may have less specific deadlines -- are of a relatively higher priority.

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